

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for reducing ABENDs in a data processing system when a job encounters an end of a current storage volume, said method comprising:

(a) in response to said encounter, selecting a new storage volume from a first plurality of storage volumes that constitute a first storage group; and

(b) if step (a) is unsuccessful, selecting said another new storage volume from a second plurality of storage volumes that constitute a second storage group.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said current storage volume is one of said first plurality of storage volumes.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising performing an ABEND process if step (b) is unsuccessful.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising skipping step (b) if said second storage group is nonexistent.

5. (currently amended) A method for reducing ABENDs in a data processing system when a job encounters an end of a current storage volume, said method comprising:

(a) in response to said encounter, selecting a new storage volume from a first plurality of storage volumes that constitute a first storage group;

(b) if step (a) is unsuccessful, selecting another new storage volume from a second plurality of storage volumes that constitute a second storage group; and

~~The method of claim 1, further comprising linking said second group as an extend-to-~~

new volume group for end of volume encounters of said first plurality of storage volumes of said first group.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein said extend-to-new volume group is one of a plurality of extend-to-new volume groups, and wherein step (b) is capable of selecting said new storage volume from one or more of said plurality of extend storage groups.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein said plurality of extend storage groups is available to step (b) according to a priority.

8. (currently amended) A computer that reduces ABENDs when a job encounters an end of a current storage volume, said computer comprising:

first means responsive to said encounter for selecting a new storage volume from a first plurality of storage volumes that constitute a first storage group; and

second means, operable if none of the other storage volumes of said first group are available for selection by said first means, for selecting ~~said~~ another new storage volume from a second plurality of storage volumes that constitute a second storage group.

9. (original) The computer of claim 8, wherein said current storage volume is a one of said first plurality of storage volumes.

10. (original) The computer of claim 8, further comprising third means for performing an ABEND process if none of said second plurality of storage volumes of said second group is available for selection by said second means.

11. (original) The computer of claim 8, wherein said second means is inoperative if said second storage group is nonexistent.

12. (currently amended) A computer that reduces ABENDs when a job encounters an end

of a current storage volume, said computer comprising:

first means responsive to said encounter for selecting a new storage volume from a first plurality of storage volumes that constitute a first storage group;

second means, operable if none of the other storage volumes of said first group are available for selection by said first means, for selecting said new storage volume from a second plurality of storage volumes that constitute a second storage group; and

~~The computer of claim 8, further comprising~~ fourth means for linking said second group as an extend-to-new volume group for end of volume encounters of said first plurality of storage volumes of said first group.

13. (original) The computer of claim 12, wherein said extend-to-new volume group is one of a plurality of extend-to-new volume groups, and wherein said second means is capable of selecting said new storage volume from one or more of said plurality of extend storage groups.

14. (original) The computer of claim 13, wherein said plurality of extend storage groups is available to said second means according to a priority

15. (currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer-readable memory media for causing a computer to reduce ABENDs when a job encounters an end of a current storage volume, said ~~memory means comprising~~ computer program executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

first means for controlling said computer to perform a first operation in response to said encounter of selecting a new storage volume from a first plurality of storage volumes that constitute a first storage group; and

second means for controlling said computer to perform a second operation, if said first

operation is unsuccessful, of selecting said another new storage volume from a second plurality of storage volumes that constitute a second storage group.

16. (original) The memory media of claim 15, wherein said current storage volume is one of said first plurality of storage volumes.

17. (original) The memory media of claim 15, further comprising third means for controlling said computer to perform a third operation of performing an ABEND process if said second operation is unsuccessful.

18. (original) The memory media of claim 15, further comprising fourth means for controlling said computer to perform a fourth operation of skipping said second operation if said second storage group is nonexistent.

19. (currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable memory media for causing a computer to reduce ABENDs when a job encounters an end of a current storage volume, said computer program executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

first means for controlling said computer to perform a first operation in response to said encounter of selecting a new storage volume from a first plurality of storage volumes that constitute a first storage group;

second means for controlling said computer to perform a second operation, if said first operation is unsuccessful, of selecting another new storage volume from a second plurality of storage volumes that constitute a second storage group; and

~~The memory media of claim 15, further comprising~~ fifth means for controlling said computer to perform a fifth operation of linking said second group as an extend-to-new volume group for end of volume encounters of said first plurality of storage volumes of said first group.

20. (original) The memory media of claim 19, wherein said extend-to-new volume group is one of a plurality of extend-to-new volume groups, and wherein said second operation is capable of selecting said new storage volume from one or more of said plurality of extend storage groups.

21. (original) The memory media of claim 21, wherein said plurality of extend storage groups is available to said second operation according to a priority.